

January 22, 2023



WELCOME

in the name of the Lord!

As God serves us today in Word and Sacrament, may we rejoice in His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation.

- 1) Please complete either a Guest (blue) or Member (white) card found in the hymnal rack of the pews.** You may place this card in the offering plate located in the Narthex.
- 2) To parents of small children, we love the sound of children in worship.** Thank you for bringing your child to worship; they belong here! If your child is actively crying, we have a cry room with service audio near the restrooms.
- 3) Regarding the Lord's Supper today:** If you are not a confirmed member of this congregation or a congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, **please speak to the pastor before communing.** Pastor is readily available in the narthex before worship for this conversation. For those with medical need, the center section of the individual cup trays is filled with cups of grape juice (darker color). For those that have a gluten intolerance, gluten-free wafers are available. Share your need as you come forward to the altar.
- 4) Children are invited to come forward to the altar while the Lord's Supper is distributed;** encourage them to bow their heads and fold their hands. While there, they will receive a Baptismal blessing from the Pastor.
- 5) We ask that if you have a mobile device, please silence it during the worship service.**
- 6) Our elders and ushers are here to help with any of your worship needs today.**

Thanks for worshipping with us!

Sermon Reflections

What problem (sin) did the sermon address?

What solution (gospel) was presented for the problem?

What part of the sermon did you find easiest to remember?

Worship Times

- ✠ Saturdays 5:30 p.m. — *Abbreviated service*
- ✠ Sundays 8:00 a.m. — *Communion at the rail*
- ✠ Sundays 10:30 a.m. — *With Praise Band*

Livestreaming of the 8:00 a.m. service continues to be available at stjohnsportage.com/live.

Weekly Events

- Sunday (22)**
9:00 a.m. **No Sunday School**
Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
9:15 a.m. Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Late Sunday Morning Bible Study, Church APR
- Monday (23)**
9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
4:30 p.m. Board of Finance, Church CLC
4:30 p.m. Boys' Basketball Party, School Gym and Cafeteria
- Tuesday (24)** **No 9:15 a.m. Bible Study**
6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Portage Airport
6:30 p.m. Board of Stewardship, Church CLC
- Wednesday (25)**
10:00 a.m. Chapel, Church Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
4:30 p.m. Jr. Youth Group, School Gym
5:00 p.m. Handbells Practice, Church Balcony
6:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice, Church Balcony
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Instruction, Church CLC
6:30 p.m. Sr. Youth Group, School Gym
- Thursday (26)**
8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
10:15 a.m. Rachel Bible Study, Church CLC
6:00 p.m. Every One His Witness, Church CLC
- Friday (27)**
Church office closed
1:00 p.m. Friday Ladies Bible Study, W6808 Elk Rd. Westfield, WI

- Sunday (29)**
9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
9:15 a.m. Sunday School, School Cafeteria
9:15 a.m. Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Late Sunday Morning Bible Study, Church APR

Calendar events are subject to change. For the most up-to-date calendar information, please visit our website, <http://www.stjohnsportage.com/st-johns-calendar>. To schedule your group activity, please contact the church office at 608-742-9000 or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com.

Open House!

All families, current and new, are invited to eat, drink, and meet our teachers at St. John's Lutheran School Open House.

When: Thursday, February 2

Time: 3:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Where: St. John's Lutheran School

Please use the Emmett St. entrance, door D.

Please Pray

Please notify the church office when one of our church family members is in the hospital, so that a pastoral visit may be made or arranged.

Thanksgiving

(birth, birthdays, baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, recovery):

Medical:

Jane Kaiser, Faye Heart (daughter of Ruth Mell)

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

Stacie Wheeler, Nola Tennyson, Rosemary Martin, Tom Waddell
Lani Kohrt (daughter-in-law of Don and Carol Kohrt)
Lisa Priske (daughter of Betty Mootz)
Dennis Vierk (friend of Jim Sohl)

Mourning:

How Do I Get Someone on the Prayer List?

If you, or someone you know, would like to have a name added to the prayer list, please contact the church office. Prayer requests for Thanksgiving, Medical, and Mourning will remain on the list for two weeks. Prayer requests for Long-term Illness/Treatment will remain for 1 month unless the church office is notified with an update on the individual. Please be sure that you have the permission of the individual before contacting the church office to add them to the public prayer list.

Life Thoughts

January 22 – Epiphany III – In the day of trouble the people of Christ seek not the finger of death but the face of the Lord (Psalm 27:5, 8). Though carrying surprise pregnancy may appear foolish, though enduring unto natural death may seem senseless, though advocating the sanctity of life may earn us ridicule, the word of the cross preserves us—and our neighbors—in the very power of God

Stewardship Thoughts

Matthew 4:20 – “Immediately they left their nets and followed him.” Discipleship cost Peter and Andrew everything they had. They left their trade, their hometown, their families, and they followed Jesus. God has called us to the same discipleship, the same devotion, though the exact details of how that is lived out will vary. The important thing is this: we know that all we have is the Lord’s, to be used for His purpose. We are His disciples and are ready to follow where He leads.

Project Connect

Project Connect, from Lutheran Hour Ministries, is an excellent evangelism resource. It gives congregations and individuals an outreach program that works and is easy to maintain. This app not only allows you to download and share these great resources, but to listen to high quality recordings as well.

- Topic categories include “Abuse Addiction,” “Domestic Violence,” and “Life Skills.”
- New! Includes booklets for children that you can read with them when you’re on the go!
- Share the resources with a friend through a variety of social media and communication outlets.

The app is available on Google Play, Kindle Fire, and Apple.

Offering Envelopes

You may have noticed that you have not received your offering envelopes this quarter. Unfortunately, the company that sends the envelopes is experiencing supply chain issues and the inability to add employees. To get back to expected levels of timely deliveries, they are suspending the production of this quarter’s envelopes. Quarterly offering envelopes will resume production and shipping in April.

Loose offering envelopes are available in the pews, or you can use your own. If you know your envelope number, please include it on the memo line of your check or on the outside of your envelope.

Sanctity of Life Sunday

In honor of Sanctity of Life Sunday, St. John's Lutherans For Life and the Pregnancy Resource Center (Portage) will have a resource table in the church narthex beginning Saturday, January 21. We invite you to join us as we honor and uplift all life! As we hear Pastor say, children are a blessing from God, a life-long present. The Pregnancy Resource Center Baby Bottles and resources will be on the table in the narthex. The money garnered from the Baby Bottle Campaign will support infants and their families with needed items like diapers, lotions, blankets, baby clothing, and all the items infants need. Take the bottles home and fill them your heart leads you: coins, cash, or check to support the ministry at the Pregnancy Resource Center. Please return the bottles to the church office by Sunday, February 12. Also, at the resource table, please enter your name for a drawing to win a Bible.

Parent Teacher League invites you to...



St. John's Parent Teacher League invites you to Family Game Night!

January 21
6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
St. John's School Gym

Bring a game to share and play
Snacks and beverages will be available

Retirement Celebration

One of the longest-employed center employees at St. John's Child Development Center has retired after almost 22 years of serving God's children. Kris Tomaszewski retired on January 6th. Please take time to thank Kris for her 22 years of service at St. John's Lutheran Ministries and join us in celebrating Kris on Sunday, January 29th, after the 8:00 am service. We will have a card box out for Kris in the Narthex if you wish to write a note or give her a card.

One Heart Women's Seminar

You are invited to the 28th annual One Heart Women's Seminar.

When: February 25 | 8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Where: Wintergreen Resort at Clarion Hotel & Suites, Wis. Dells.

Cost: \$49.00 (\$60.00 after February 20)

Tickets includes three inspiring messages, morning refreshments, and a sit-down lunch provided by the Wintergreen.

Brochures are available at the Welcome Center.

For more information visit www.oneheartseminar.com.

Contribution Statements

Your 2022 contribution statements are on the blue table in the Narthex.

Support our Ministries

Support St. John's while you shop!

Shop for gift cards with RaiseRight. You can place your order on Tuesday and pick up on Thursday. Or, stop in the church office and pick up a card from our stock.

Visit: raiserright.com

Click: **Sign Up**

Enrollment Code: **Please call the church office, 608-742-9000 for the enrollment code.**

Festival	\$25 & \$50
Kwik Trip	\$25, \$50, & \$100
Pizza Ranch	\$25
Walgreens	\$25
Walmart	\$25
Culvers	\$25
Portage Movie Theater	\$10
Subway	\$10

We have a few more Crusader Cards left!

25% off Dairy Queen is just one of the great deals on the Crusader Card. Stop in the church office during office hours to pick up your Crusader Card.

Price: \$10.00

Dairy Queen 25% off purchases	Dino's 10% off for parties 10 or less. (excludes alcohol)	Pizza Ranch 10% off purchases
La Tolteca 10% off purchases (excludes alcohol)	Edgewater Greenhouse 10% off purchases (Excludes wired orders and sales items)	The Ballroom 10% off purchases
Craig's Popcorn Corner 10% off purchase	Prairie Flower Beads 10% off purchases	Saddle Ridge 2 for 1 on 9 holes of Golf
Red Apple 10% off purchases	J&J Fireball Lanes Buy 1 get 1 game of bowling	Pets of Portage 10% off purchase
It's Poppin —10% off purchase—Limit 3 uses ○○○○ Johnny B's —10% off purchase—Limit 3 uses ○○○○ Carol's Cones —\$.50 off cone or dish—Limit 5 uses ○○○○○○		

Not valid with other specials or discounts. 1 use per visit per day. Offers subject to change. St. John's is not responsible for closure of any business on card.

Local Stores ONLY

Expires December 2023

Thrivent Choice Dollars, you decide!

It's time to start thinking of where you want to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Please consider designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John's. Call Thrivent today at 800-847-4836 or log into your account at www.thrivent.com/choice and click Get Started Now.

Deadline: March 31

Census 2022

St. John's is taking a census of its entire membership. If you haven't done so, please complete the Census 2022 online at stjohnsportage.com/census2022. It takes less than 2 minutes. Paper copies are available at the Welcome Center. We are looking for 100% participation of our families. Thanks to all who have participated. Thank you to all who have submitted a Census.



Save the Date!

Wednesday, February 1

Wisconsin Parental Choice program enrollment begins. Visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-options/choice-programs> for more information, or contact St. John's School 608-742-9000 opt. 3

Thursday, February 2 | 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. | School

St. John's School Open House. For more information contact St. John's School 608-742-9000 opt. 3

Wednesday, February 15 | 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | School Gym

Youth Group Valentine's Day Babysitting fundraiser
RSVP via text to 608-697-2649

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday services at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center, hosted by St. John's Jr. and Sr. Youth Groups.

Lutheran Schools Night with the Milwaukee Bucks!

Celebrate Lutheran Schools Night and watch the Milwaukee Bucks take on the Miami Heat!



When:

Friday

February 24 | 6:30pm

Order by January 24:

FEVO.ME/LSN23

Use Promo Code: LSN23

Prices vary depending on seat selection.

Each ticket will come with a Milwaukee Bucks lanyard.

For more information, contact Paul Grow at paul.growt@bucks.com or call 414-227-0584.

News from LCMS

The 2023 LCMS Life Conference

The world today pressures people on all sides to reject God's design for human life.

The 2023 LCMS Life Conference, which is part of *Making Disciples for Life*, is set for **March 2-3, 2023**, in St. Louis and online. The conference will provide Lutherans with the resources to faithfully proclaim what God's Word teaches about life, health, marriage and family.

Presentations at the 2023 conference will focus on three main subject areas: advocacy for the sanctity of human life and God's design for marriage and the family; teaching God's Word to people of all ages so they learn the truth about life, health and family; and sharing Christ's love and mercy with a focus on life, health and the family.

Get Involved in the Community

Agrace is seeking volunteers to visit with local hospice patients.

Volunteer orientation will take place at Agrace's Baraboo office **February 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Pre-registration is required. Call (608) 327-7163 or visit Agrace.org/Volunteer to fill out an application.

Youth Ministry

All youth are invited to join us for fun and fellowship.

- ✚ **Sunday School — No Sunday School January 22**
Meets Sundays from 9:15 a.m.–10:15 a.m. in St. John's School Cafeteria. Lessons are based on the weekly readings. There will be games, Bible lessons, and snacks.
- ✚ **Jr. Youth Group**
For grades 4-7 meets on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m. in St. John's School Gym. The focus of Jr. Youth Group is Martin Luther's Catechism to help prepare for confirmation. There will be pizza and games to help us learn God's Word.
- ✚ **Senior Youth Group**
For grades 8-12 meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. in St. John's School Gym. The focus of Senior Youth Group is being equipped with God's armor. There will be games, Bible study, servant work, and pizza.

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.

John 6:27

Daily Lectionary

This week's readings comes from the Daily Lectionary found in the Lutheran Service Book page 299.

Sunday, Joel 2:1–17 & Rom. 11:1–24	Tuesday, Joel 3:1–21 & Rom. 12:14–13:14	Friday, Zech. 4:1–5:11 & Rom. 26:14–33
Monday, Joel 2:18–32 & Rom. 11:25–12:13	Wednesday, Zech. 1:1–21 & Rom. 14:1–23	Saturday, Zech. 6:1–7:14 & Rom. 16:17–27
	Thursday, Zech. 2:1–3:10 & Rom. 15:1–13	

Weekly Offerings

Last Week's In-person Attendance: 283

Unified Received: \$9,776.00

Other Contributions: \$175.00

TOTAL: \$9,951.00

Weekly Unified Needed: \$14,875.00

YTD Unified Giving: \$378,761.00

YTD Budgeted Unified Need: \$384,807.69

Bible Studies

Join us for fellowship and Bible study!

- ✚ **Christian Education Hour meets Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** This is a Pastor-led Bible study of The Lutheran Spirituality Series:
Vocation: God Serves through Us, by Chad E. Hoover.
- ✚ **Late Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 11:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** We are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew and the Synoptic Gospels.
- ✚ **Men's Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. at the Portage Airport.** We are currently studying the book of Acts.
- ✚ **Tuesday Morning Bible Study will not meet this Tuesday, January 24. Join us Tuesday, January 31.** meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Christian Life Center. This is a Pastor-led Bible study of the upcoming week's readings.
- ✚ **Sisters in Christ Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the All Purpose Room.** We are currently taking a break.
- ✚ **Esther Bible Study meets Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** We are currently studying the Gospel of John.
- ✚ **Rachel Bible Study meets Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** We are currently watching and discussing *The Chosen* series.
- ✚ **Thirsty Souls Bible Study meets Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.**
- ✚ **Friday Ladies Bible Study meets Fridays at 1:00 p.m. at the home of June R., W6808 Elk Rd., Westfield, WI.**

Coffee Hour

Adopt a Sunday! It's a fun and easy way to get to know your church family.

We encourage families and groups to "Adopt a Sunday" by hosting coffee hour on Sunday mornings. Hosting coffee hour involves providing a simple snack, making coffee, and enjoying fellowship time with our church families. Sign up in the Christian Life Center or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Jan. 22:	Adult Choir
Jan. 29:	St. John's Child Development Center
Feb. 5:	Open
Feb. 12:	Open
Feb. 19:	Open
Feb. 26:	Grades 2-4

Contact us: 608-742-9000

Church:
option 4
Office Hours:
M—Th / 8:00a–3:30p
churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
Rev. Greg Hovland,
Senior Pastor
(c) 608-571-3360
ghovland@stjohnsportage.com

Child Development Center:
option 3
Office Hours:
M—F / 7:00a–5:00p
cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com
Debra Drew,
Director
ddrew@stjohnsportage.com

School:
option 2
Office Hours:
M—F / 7:30a–3:15p
schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com
Jim Krupski,
Principal
jkrupski@stjohnsportage.com

St. John's Elder Directory:
Bob Fairfield 296-4012, Chairman
Roger Baerwolf 617-6088
Ken Chvojicek 697-2102
Bill Hageman 279-0272
David Hall 493-2125
Ron Mueller 369-1845
Pete Smith 697-3807
Gene Thompson 697-4786
Mark Witt 697-0224

To schedule your group activity or add a loved one to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 608-742-9000 option 4 or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com.